

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMCONSUL LENNINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
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AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VINEEA

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT, CZ
SUBJECT: ITALIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION RENEWS CRITICISM OF SOVIET
INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

REF: (A) ROME 14091, B) ROME 14809

SUMMARY: AS PREDICTED, THE ITALIAN PROVISIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATION CCU, CONSISTING OF THE CISL (DC-ORIENTED), UIL (SOCIALIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN) AND THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL, RENEWED ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA THEIR CONDEMNATION AND ASKED AGAIN FOR THE END OF REPRESSION. REFLECTING THE CONFLICT ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL BETWEEN PSI PARTY SECRETARY BETTINO CRAXI AND THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) ON THE TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE, OUR SOURCES TELL US THE CCU USED SOFTER LANGUAGE PREFERRED BY THE PCI. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL INDUSTRIAL UNION AFFILIATE, THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ITALIAN METAL WORKERS FEDERATION (FLM), LIKE CRAXI, CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN A SEPARATE PUBLIC STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CCU ISSUED ITS DECLARATION ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN INVASION POINTING OUT THAT QUOTE THE REACTION OF THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT REMAINS TODAY THE SAME AS IT WAS IN 1968 AND CONDEMNS STRONGLY THIS ACT UNQUOTE, QUOTE THE FACT THAT THE POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS, WHO HAVE REPLACED THOSE LAWFULLY SELECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND WORKERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968, HAVE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE PREVIOUS PROTESTS AGAINST THE REPRESSION OF POLITICAL, LABOR, AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, REPRESENTS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS SITUATION UNQUOTE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CCU DECLARATION ADDED.

3. AFTER RENOVING THE CCU'S COMMITMENT AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION OF WORKERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SOCIETY, WHICH INSPIRED THE INNER QUOTE CZECHOSLOVAK SPRING IN 1968 INNER UNQUOTE, THE CCU DECLARATION INCLUDED AFFIRMING THAT THE CCU QUOTE HAS DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT IN THE COMING WEEKS PROPER PUBLIC INITIATIVES DEVOTED TO PUBLICIZING INFORMATION AMONG ITALIAN WORKERS ABOUT THIS SITUATION AND TO DEMONSTRATE IN FACT ITS SOLIDARITY IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRE ITS ACTION UNQUOTE.

4. LATER THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED UNITED ITALIAN METALWORKERS FEDERATION (FLM), CONSISTING ALSO OF CGIL (PCI), CISL (DC-ORIENTED), UIL (SOCIALIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN) FACTIONS, ISSUED A STRONGER STATEMENT THAN THE CCU. THIS DECLARATION NOT ONLY RENEWED THE STRONG CONDEMNATION OF ITALIAN UNIONS OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND REPRESSION THERE SINCE THEN BUT ALSO HEADLINES ITS REQUEST THAT FOREIGN TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOLLOWING THE LINE OF EXILED CZECH LEADERS AND PSI SECRETARY CRAXI.

5. COMMENT. UIL LEADERS GIORGIO BENVENUTO (SOCIALIST) AND LINO RAVECCA (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) CONTINUED TO BE THE SPARK PLUGS OF SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES. BENCENUTO IS REGARDED AS PSI SECRETARY'S CRAXI'S MAN IN THE UIL. IT APPEARS THAT UIL FACTION WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THE FLM THAN IN THE CCU IN NEGOTIATING ITS HUMAN RIGHTS LINE ON THE TRADE UNION SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE. THESE CCU AND FLM STATEMENTS PROVIDED ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE WITHIN THECCCU BETWEEN THE MINORITY UIL FACTION WITH THE MAJORITY CGIL ON THE ISSUE OF PRESSING THE HUMAN AND LABOR RIGHTS ISSUE IN EASTERN EUROPE.
HOLMES

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